



**Parks and Recreation Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes, April 6, 2015; 4:30 PM  
Conference Room  
Public Works Facility**

**ITEM 1**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 4:30 PM – The meeting was called to order by Chair Jeff Dobbs. Committee members present were Eric Ankrom, Alan Mogridge, John Kelly and Committee Liaison Public Works Director Chip Reeves. Others in attendance were Amy Schwartz of the Park Street Playground Project, Aaron Miles of Balance Rock Inn, Richard Cough of the Village Improvement Association (VIA), Brian Booher of the Bar Harbor Town Band, and residents Deborah Reccholtz, George Kidder, Robin Wade and Fay Lawson.

**ITEM 2**

**A. Excused Absence(s):** Deborah Page

**ITEM 3**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Chair Dobbs moved to amend the Agenda to add Item 5.C., Discussion of Village Green Bandstand. Mr. Mogridge moved, with second by Mr. Ankrom, to approve the Agenda as amended; motion passed (3-0).

**ITEM 4**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Mogridge moved, with second by Mr. Ankrom, to approve the Minutes of March 2, 2015; motion passed (3-0).

**ITEM 5**

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**A. Park Street Playground Project: Fundraising Sign Request.**

Ms. Schwartz represented the Park Street Playground Project to propose the temporary installation of a fundraising sign at the front of Park Street Playground. The 4-foot by 8-foot structure would be supported by posts. The style would be similar to that of the skatepark fundraising “thermometer” sign to indicate fundraising goal and progress. Sponsor Bar Harbor (MDI) Rotary Club contact information would be included on the sign. Mr. Reeves said there is a drainage system in the area, and the project will coordinate post installation with him. He will confirm if design review approval is required for the sign.

Mr. Mogridge announced that he is Vice Chair of the Park Street Playground Project. Mr. Ankrom moved, with second by Chair Dobbs, that there is no conflict of interest and to allow Mr. Mogridge to vote on the matter; motion passed (2-0).

The Committee agreed to recommend to Town Council to approve the installation of the fundraising sign at Park Street Playground (3-0).

[For clarity to these Minutes, a voting Committee member arrived at this point in the meeting.]

## **B. Grant Park Improvements Project: Scope Review.**

Grant Park neighborhood property owners were informed of this meeting, and some were present and/or responded with comments. The conceptual design for the proposed improvements was displayed, and Mr. Reeves reviewed the plan as illustrated. The improvements include grading, an irrigation system from an extended water line from the end of Albert Meadow to the Park, a sunken seating area at the top, a picnic area on pavers in the southeast corner, rerouting of the Shore Path to incorporate an amphitheater with pavers, two ways to get to the shore, and plantings along the Park's broad walk for foot traffic control. Salvage granite would be used for block seating. The lawn would be the same grass mix as is used at the Village Green. The design represents an open space and thus provides picnic tables as described.

A planned improvement would be the elimination of drainage from neighboring Balance Rock Inn. Mr. Reeves acknowledged that, while a property owner cannot be prohibited from sending water onto public land, a cellar drain leading to the subsurface would alleviate the overflow onto the Park.

There will be a parking lot curb. The wastewater pump station access road has no washout issues. Its width will be maintained at 12 feet.

Ms. Wade suggested the area could be used as an off-leash dog park with the provision of dog waste bags / receptacles. Ms. Lawson has observed its current use is a dog park. Mr. Kelly noted that dogs are allowed on Town parks while on leash, adding that off-leash dogs should be in a contained area. Mr. Reeves explained that dog waste is classified as hazardous waste (i.e., may contain medications) and requires special training to deal with it. People should take care of their own waste; an ordinance addresses this.

Ms. Lawson recommends the addition of street lighting at Grant Park and along Albert Meadow which leads to the Park. Mr. Reeves reported that property owners on Albert Meadow were polled three years ago, and at that time, street lights were not wanted. Ms. Lawson read a memo from Terry O'Connell (Albert Meadow property owner) that expressed support of the further development of Grant Park with the inclusion of street lights on Albert Meadow and signage on Main Street that directs people toward the Park. Chair Dobbs clarified that street lighting is not within the purview of the Parks and Recreation Committee and should be addressed to Town Council.

Mr. Cough said he likes the conceptual design and reported that the Village Improvement Association (VIA) is donating \$30,000 toward the improvement project along with the abutting Shore Path. The width of the Shore Path is improved to a minimum of six feet and at eight feet wherever possible to allow for path maintenance equipment. He recommends lighting where changes in the paths occur. The shore front stays the same with a stabilized slope.

Mr. Cough expressed concern with the use of *Rosa rugosa* plantings that might interfere with the view shed and providing "hiding" places. Mr. Reeves remarked that the *Rosa rugosa* would be trimmed each year, but that plant selection is far from complete. The view shed would be maintained front and back.

Shore side seating will be priced at both bench style and stone seating. Stone seating is costly, but is maintenance free and cannot be thrown into the nearby ocean.

Mr. Miles of Balance Rock Inn requested consideration for ingress to the Inn's property from the Park near the Shore Path for gardener access. Access next to the Park entrance is blocked by stairs and a handicap entrance; likewise, there is no space on the other side of the Inn. Mr. Kelly questioned if access over public land for private property maintenance should be available. Mr. Reeves will meet on-site with Mr. Miles to evaluate ingress options.

Mr. Kelly expressed concern with issues of "hang outs" and potential problems at the top sunken seating area. He noted that fencing on three sides of the Park are in different styles and stages of repair. He cautioned against creating a space that is too formal or of an urban effect.

Chair Dobbs queried Committee members for feedback on lighting. Mr. Kelly is opposed to lighting unless the rationale is for safety. Messrs. Mogridge and Ankrom have no preference; yet if added to the scope, it should be low and only for the foot path.

Mr. Miles and Ms. Reccholtz remarked that the conceptual plan looks nice.

The Committee will review scope detail changes as follows:

- The location of picnic tables at the top of the Park will be reconsidered, which involves ground preparation.
- Pedestrian lighting.
- Addition of low level lighting at the Shore Path amphitheater.
- Addition of an electrical source, either at the pump station or on a pole near the parking lot; may include the addition of a meter.
- Wayfinding signage that includes non-smoking verbiage.

Cruise ship funds are being transferred from the Harborview Park project to the Grant Park Improvements project. The next steps are Committee scope wrap-up, project estimate, and scope recommendation to Town Council.

### **C. Village Green Bandstand Discussion.**

Town Band Director Brian Booher attended to propose a temporary addition to the Village Green bandstand to accommodate the increased size of the band. There are currently 50 members in the band, all cannot fit onto the bandstand, and he does not want to deny musician participation. A proposed plan, designed by Dwight Lanpher, was presented that would involve attaching risers to the bandstand and their removal for each performance. The risers would be supported by concrete sonnet tubes imbedded in the ground. The proposal would include relocation of the Donald Wood memorial stone with plaque and removal of shrubbery.

Mr. Reeves provided considerations to be given: the memorial stone is currently positioned so that people can view it upon approach to the bandstand; a conversation needs to take place with the sponsors of the memorial; existing bandstand rails are not designed for the weight load of a hanging platform; the irrigation system and plants would have to be moved; set-up / removal of the platform (a two-person job) might fall to the Public Works employee who sets up/takes down band chairs for each performance; when the temporary platform is removed, a barren flowerbed remains; concrete sonnet tubes lend to the construction area; the bandstand is an historical piece that was reconstructed in the design of the original bandstand.

Chair Dobbs added that symmetry should be maintained. Mr. Kelly stressed that added corners are a concern for children that run around the bandstand. Mr. Reeves suggested a temporary trial with thought given to something more permanent and weather proof; no permanent structural changes at this time. He advised that this Committee needs to be kept apprised of any changes. Mr. Booher said he would contact Gary Barker about the relocation of the memorial.

Mr. Kelly moved, with second by Mr. Ankrom, that the Committee work with the Town Band to have a temporary platform system arrangement that would be installed and removed after each performance, one that looks good; arrangement valid for summer 2015; motion passed (4-0).

**ITEM 6  
NEXT MEETING DATE**

May 4, 2015

**Public Works Facility**

**ITEM 7  
ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Banis  
Recording Secretary